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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/981,015	10/17/2001	Steve Dispensa	1573	5595
28004 SPRINT 6391 SPRINT PARKWAY KSOPHT0101-Z2100 OVERLAND PARK, KS 66251-2100	7590 03/29/2010		<div>EXAMINER</div> <div>RAMPURIA, SHARAD K</div>	
			<div>ART UNIT</div> <div>2617</div>	<div>PAPER NUMBER</div>
			<div>MAIL DATE</div> <div>03/29/2010</div>	<div>DELIVERY MODE</div> <div>PAPER</div>

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

# Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

09/981,015

**Applicant(s)**

DISPENSA ET AL.

**Examiner**

SHARAD RAMPURIA

**Art Unit**

2617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 April 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 and 41-60 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 and 41-60 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Statement(s) (PTO/SF/23)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1-20, 41-60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Moura; Eduardo J. et al.** [US 6104727 A] in view of **Jonas; Amnon et al.** [US 6940833 B2].

As per claim 1, **Moura** teaches:

A method of operating a probe device in a broadband wireless system (Abstract), the method comprising:

storing the channel information in a memory in the probe device; and transferring the channel information from the memory to a user system. (e.g. storing; Col.6; 32-58)

**Moura** doesn't teach specifically, receiving a message; processing the message to determine channel information describing actual use of each of a plurality of channels in the broadband wireless system by each of a plurality of users, wherein the channel information describing actual use includes a per-user breakdown of a time spent in each channel. However, **JONAS** advocates in an analogous art, that receiving a message; processing the message to determine channel information describing actual use of each of a plurality of channels in the broadband wireless system by each of a plurality of users, (E.G. describing use of each of a plurality of channels in the broadband by each of a plurality of users; Col.9; 6-39, Col.10; 4-17) wherein the channel information describing actual use includes a per-user breakdown of a time spent in each channel. (E.G. Modems are calibrated via a calibration message constructed at the hub by measuring some parameters of communication bursts between the modem to the hub. The modems rotate in using the available upstream channels so that each available channel is fully calibrated using actual communication bursts, keeping the parameters for each channel ready for use when assigned for communicating on any of the available channels; Col.9; 6-39, Col.10; 4-17) Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify **Moura** including receiving a message; processing the message to determine channel information describing actual use of each of a plurality of channels in the broadband wireless system by each of a plurality of users, wherein the channel information describing actual use includes a per-user breakdown of a time spent in each channel in order to provide a

method of two dimensional scheduler integrates the allocation of both the time domain and the channel domain for upstream communication in a broadband wireless access system.

As per claim 2, **Moura** teaches:

The method of claim 1 wherein the channels are upstream. (e.g. upstream; Col.14; 55-Col.15; 16)

As per claim 3, **Moura** teaches:

The method of claim 1 wherein the channels are downstream. (e.g. downstream; Col.14; 55-Col.15; 16)

As per claim 4, **Moura** teaches:

The method of claim 1 wherein the message is a credit that allows usage of one of the channels. (e.g. credit; Col.14; 55-Col.15; 16)

As per claim 5, **Moura** teaches:

The method of claim 1 wherein the message indicates a completion of usage of one of the channels. (e.g. completion; Col.13; 11-24)

As per claim 6, **Moura** teaches:

The method of claim 1 wherein the probe device is connected to a switch in the broadband wireless system. (e.g. switch; Col.5; 40-54)

As per claim 7, **Moura** teaches:

The method of claim 1 wherein the probe device is connected to an upstream manager in the broadband wireless system. (e.g.; Col.13; 11-24)

As per claim 8, **Moura** teaches:

The method of claim 1 wherein the probe device is connected to a downstream manager in the broadband wireless system. (e.g. downstream; Col.14; 55-Col.15; 16)

As per claim 9, **Moura** teaches:

The method of claim 1 wherein processing the message comprises determining a state of one of the channels. (e.g. state of channels; Col.14; 55-Col.15; 16)

As per claim 10, **Moura** teaches:

The method of claim 9 wherein the state is polling. (e.g. polling; Col.14; 55-Col.15; 16)

As per claim 11, **Moura** teaches:

The method of claim 9 wherein the state is dedicated. (e.g. dedicated; Col.15; 47-60)

As per claim 12, **Moura** teaches:

The method of claim 9 wherein the state is idle. (e.g. idle; Col.8; 37-43)

As per claim 13, **Moura** teaches:

The method of claim 9 further comprising determining a time in the state. (e.g. time; Col.10; 56-64)

As per claim 14, **Moura** teaches:

The method of claim 1 wherein processing the message comprises monitoring a number of bytes transmitted. (e.g. bytes transmitted; Col.2; 13-34)

As per claim 15, **Moura** teaches:

The method of claim 1 wherein processing the message comprises monitoring a number of messages transmitted during a state of one of the channels. (e.g. transmitted; Col.14; 55-Col.15; 16)

As per claim 16, **Moura** teaches:

The method of claim 1 wherein the channel information comprises a state of one of the channels. (e.g. state of channels; Col.14; 55-Col.15; 16)

As per claim 17, **Moura** teaches:

The method of claim 1 wherein the channel information comprises a change in a state of one of the channels. (e.g. state of channels; Col.14; 55-Col.15; 16)

As per claim 18, **Moura** teaches:

The method of claim 1 wherein the channel information comprises a number of bytes transmitted. (e.g. bytes transmitted; Col.2; 13-34)

As per claim 19, **Moura** teaches:

The method of claim 1 wherein the channel information comprises a number of messages transmitted. (e.g. transmitted; Col.14; 55-Col.15; 16)

As per claim 20, **Moura** teaches:

The method of claim 1 wherein the channel information comprises a time in a state of one of the channels. (e.g. state of channels; Col.14; 55-Col.15; 16)

**Claims 41-60** are the **device** claims, corresponding to **method** claims 1-20 respectively, and rejected under the same rational set forth in connection with the rejection of claims 1-20 respectively, above.

***Response to Remarks***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-20, 41-60, have been fully considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.



***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sharad Rampuria whose telephone number is (571) 272-7870. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F. (8:30-5 EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dwayne Bost can be reached on (571) 272-7023. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Sharad Rampuria/  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2617